

ABSTRACT

A method for effective preventing polymerization of acrylic acid during an azeotropic dehydration distillation in an acrylic acid manufacturing process and thus enabling an stable operation of the azeotropic dehydration column over an extended period of time. A method for preventing the polymerization of acrylic acid in an acrylic acid production process, wherein acrylic acid is separated in an azeotropic dehydration column from an acrylic acid aqueous solution fed therein, the method comprising withdrawing from the bottom of the azeotropic dehydration column a bottom effluent containing 50% or more of glyoxal (including the hydrates thereof) contained in the acrylic acid aqueous solution fed into the azeotropic dehydration column.